

The Knoxville Independent

GEO. W. FORD, EDITOR.

718 GAY STREET.
OFFICE PHONE (OLD) 296
RESIDENCE PHONE (OLD) 686

Entered at the postoffice at Knoxville, Tenn., as second-class matter.

Subscription Rates, by mail, one year, \$1.00; six months, 50 cents; three months, 25 cents; single copies, 2 cents.

"No men living are more worthy to be trusted than those who toil up from poverty, none less inclined to take or touch aught which they have not honestly earned."—Abraham Lincoln.

UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA.

District 19.
Headquarters, Pineville, Ky.
Graysville, Tenn.T. J. Smith President
Graysville, Tenn.P. P. Lynch Vice President
Soddy, Tenn.T. M. Gann Secretary-Treas.
Pineville, Ky.INTERNATIONAL BOARD MEMBER
John Jeffrey Pittsburgh, Ky.

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Geo. Brannan Soddy, Tenn.
John McIlquhan Pittsburgh, Ky.
Joe A. White E. Bernstadt, Ky.
Ben Delph Ar Jay, Ky.
Alf Martin Soddy, Tenn.

AUDITORS

Thomas Brown East Bernstadt, Ky.
Robert Gann Soddy, Tenn.
J. D. Tinsley Pittsburgh, Ky.

TELLERS

Richard Lowe Jellico, Tenn.
J. D. Posey Soddy, Tenn.
Henry Patterson Pittsburgh, Ky.DELEGATES TO TENNESSEE
FEDERATION OF LABORT. J. Smith Graysville, Tenn.
Alf Martin Soddy, Tenn.
Thos. M. Gann Knoxville, Tenn.LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE FOR
TENNESSEE

T. J. Smith Graysville, Tenn.

DELEGATE TO KENTUCKY FED-
ERATION OF LABOR

John Jeffrey Pittsburgh, Ky.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE FOR
KENTUCKY

John McIlquhan Pittsburgh, Ky.

Union labor in Massachusetts is after a fifty hour law for women.

Holding and portable engineers at Baltimore get 70 cent an hour.

Cohoes (N. Y.) Central Labor union has formed a woman's label section.

In Michigan barbers' apprentices must serve two years before they can secure a state license.

The death rate among American miners from accident last year was the lowest in eighteen years. "Safety first!"

Connecticut's Public Welfare Commission will make a study of occupational diseases and report to the next legislature.

The first large co-operative sawmill in America is being built at a cost of \$150,000 near Port George, B. C., by a farmers' co-operative association to supply its members with lumber.

Large Firm Unionized.

The Hurley-Mason company of Tacoma, Wash., one of the largest contracting firms in the northwest, has abandoned nonunionism and will employ none but members of organized labor. Wages of carpenters are raised to \$5 a day and other employees' wages also increased. The firm has been non-union for a number of years, but company officials declare that "we have come to the decision that it (unionization) is the right thing to do."

Raise For Street Car Men.

An increase of a cent an hour has been granted to all motormen and conductors of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit company, irrespective of length of service. The increase comes from the 22 per cent fund established under the co-operative plan of July 1, 1911. This is the second increase in the last year. The minimum wage now is 23 cents an hour, and the maximum 37 cents.

Would Aid Workers.

August Belmont, speaking before the National Civic federation, went on record as favoring the extension of workmen's compensation laws to all occupations instead of limiting them to those which are considered hazardous. He also asserted that he was in favor of a national conference at which representatives of the various interests involved could discuss the necessity of laws which would compel employers to compensate their employees for occupational diseases.

NO LET DOWN ON THE LABOR LAWS

Future Generations Must Be Carefully Safeguarded.

PRESERVE THE CHILDREN

Suggestions by Some Employers of a General Suspension of Labor Laws During the War Meet With Little Response—Gompers' Rejected Offer Proves the Insincerity of Greed.

Some narrow minded employers have intimated that the needs of the country were going to be so great that every ounce of productive power will be needed and therefore that there should be a general suspension of labor laws. This is one of the straws that indicate that there are some employers in our land who can never forgive the wage earners for organizing, bettering their own condition, and, to a certain extent, shaping their own destiny. Instead of having their whole lives regulated for them from start to finish by employers who look upon them as something less than human beings endowed with the right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

It has been suggested that the child labor laws should be suspended during the period of the war as well as laws relating to the labor of women and minors. It is reported that Samuel Gompers, in a conference at which these matters were discussed, and in which certain employers advanced the idea of repealing or suspending all labor laws, offered the suggestion that he, Gompers, would use his influence to have the operation of any labor laws suspended whenever requested so to do by the president of the United States.

President Gompers explained afterward that he offered this suggestion as a means of testing the sincerity of the employers who wanted the labor laws repealed. The suggestion of Mr. Gompers was rejected, thus proving apparently that they were not interested in having a labor law set aside when there was the necessity for it, but they wanted to wipe them out altogether, thus giving the employers a free opportunity to decrease the effectiveness of the labor unions during the war.

It has been said by employing interests in our country that England had found it necessary to suspend all child labor laws. At a recent conference in Washington during the time of the visit of the English and French commissioners Mr. Thomas, representing English labor on the commission, said that it was not true that England had suspended its child labor laws.

Mr. Thomas further said that he hoped it was not necessary for England to receive the military support of the United States at such a tremendous sacrifice as the repeal of the child labor laws would entail. The gentleman said that the essence of the struggle is for the future generation, for the preservation of liberty and free institutions for those that come after us.

The children of today are the generation of the future, and no nation can afford to sacrifice its future citizenship by breaking down the child labor laws, the passage of which has been secured only after long years of effort and which operate as a wholesome restraint upon the greed of employers who are willing to coin future flesh and blood into profit in dollars.

Let us preserve the future generation. We can better afford to make any sacrifice of the adult population than to blight the lives of the children to the impairment of our future citizenship.

Labor Will Not Fail Nation.

John Williams of Pittsburgh, president of the Amalgamated Association of Sheet and Tin Plate Workers, in a recent statement at Atlantic City said: "Labor never has failed the nation in any emergency, and I do not believe it ever will. Labor will be right where it is needed at every stage of this national emergency, whether it be in plants turning out munitions and other supplies the country must have to prosecute the war successfully or in the trenches. Labor will not fail. Labor bought its share of the liberty loan, and labor is working twenty-four hours a day all over the land because it realizes that patriotism is no idle term."

LABOR BRIEFS.

There are more working women in New York than in any other state in the Union.

Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado and Washington have women superintendents of public instruction.

Over a million women in England have entered all kinds of positions held by men before the war.

Ohio has appointed a commission for the study and report of health insurance and old age pensions.

The British government is considering the issuing of medals to munition workers at the close of the war.

Anthracite miners' wages have been advanced \$25,000,000 a year, and the price of coal has gone up 25 cents a ton.

West Virginia has passed a law requiring every man between the ages of sixteen and sixty to work at least thirty-six hours a week while the war lasts.

Send Us Your Job Printing.
We do Job Printing at Fair Prices.

ORGANIZED LABOR.

Organized labor is raising the standards of workingmen by compelling them to think rapidly and to speak clearly. The trade union movement has developed a company of speakers who are abundantly able to present the cause of the toilers. This is constantly being demonstrated at the national meetings of labor bodies, where statements of the highest order are demanded and where some of the addresses would easily rank with the best that are delivered in the conferences and conventions of other national bodies.

LOYAL TO PRINCIPLES.

Labor Demands Same Service From Employers as It Freely Gives.

The spirit with which labor has met our nation's emergency is an earnest of the intelligent, high minded service that can be definitely relied upon in furtherance of the principles which our republic represents. Labor foresees that participation in the war was inevitable. Its representatives issued a declaration expressing labor's obligations resting upon enjoyment of rights and opportunities.

Labor is fully aware of the indispensable service it renders society in peace and in war. Tools rough hew the nation's resources and prepare the finished product for utilization. The users of tools determine the nation's ability to cope with emergencies or to seize opportunities. National alertness and progress are directly commensurate with the intelligence, creative resourcefulness and spiritual response actuating the users of tools. Therefore labor has declared that obligation to service is bound up with the right to demand proper regard and protection for that wonderful mechanism—human bodies.

Labor has been fair and sane and loyal to principles. No one can deny that wars have been waged upon as opportunities to increase profits. Even before the war labor had declared that human flesh and blood must not be made victims of war games, but that service, whether in the trenches and on the ships or in factories and in the mines, should be rendered with dignity and with feeling of self respect possible only when services are appreciated and rights are protected.

American workers have declared their willingness to do their full duty in whatever relationship they may be most needed. They declare with equal force that the workers will resist every attempt to subordinate flesh and blood to profiteering. They declare that at this time there is no just ground for long and exhausting hours of toil nor for lowering standards of work or life.

It is evident that in the immediate future many things will arise which may occasion disagreements between employees and employers. Labor demands that there ought to be established voluntary agencies whereby differences can be adjusted. Need for uninterrupted production ought not to be the cloak under which American workers can be robbed of justice.

Labor organizations have made known their readiness to enter into arbitration agreements with private employers as well as with the government. They will do everything within their power to organize industrial relations upon a basis of justice that will assure the nation fullest utilization of the material resources of the nation.

Labor, conscious of its responsibility, has offered service and honest co-operation. Employers and the government must deserve themselves and act in the same spirit.—Samuel Gompers.

NO LABOR DICTATOR.

Secretary Wilson Asserts There Is No Necessity For Such Action.

Secretary Wilson of the department of labor has denied reports that the creation of a labor dictator is contemplated by the government.

"There is no such thing contemplated by the Council of National Defense as a labor dictator," he said. "There has been no necessity for such action because the spirit of co-operation that has existed since the beginning of the emergency among all classes of workmen, organized and unorganized, and the able and earnest manner in which the spirit has been publicly expressed by their chosen leaders. Methods of adjusting labor troubles are under consideration by the Council of National Defense, each of which considers the human element in industry, but none of them contemplate the establishment of a labor dictatorship."

WORKERS PATRIOTIC.

"There need be no apprehension entertained by any one," says Samuel Gompers, "that the working people of the United States will fail in the performance of duty and to give service for the safety, the integrity and the ideals of our country. Should emergency befall the country the destiny of our nation is dependent upon the creative labor power of men and women."

"I think I am in position to know as well as any other man in America the feeling and the spirit of America's workers. While I am sure they earnestly hope that war may be averted, yet when the emergency arises they will give a good accounting of themselves."

Send us your job printing.
We do Job Printing at Fair Prices.Our Query and Reply Department
Can a modern submarine submerge in five minutes?

I should like to know something about the Japanese parliament and courts.

The Japanese parliament consists of a house of peers and a house of representatives. The house of peers contains both nobles and distinguished commoners. Princes of the Imperial blood and princes and marquises sit in it by right of title. Counts, viscounts and barons elect members of their orders. The emperor appoints the commoners of distinction, and there are also seats for the highest taxpayers, one from each prefecture. At present the house of peers contains 12 princes of the blood, 13 princes, 33 marquises, 17 counts, 68 viscounts, 66 barons, 122 men nominated by the emperor and 48 highest taxpayers.

Members of the house of representatives are elected by male Japanese subjects twenty-five years of age or over and paying a direct tax of not less than 10 yen (\$5). There are 381 members, 181 from city districts and the rest from the country districts.

The Japanese courts know no trial by jury. A judge or judges decide every case. Candidates for judgeships have to pass an examination. They are appointed for life, but may be removed for crime, and they sit in both civil and criminal cases. There is one supreme court, with 25 judges and six procurators. Below this are seven courts of appeals, with 135 judges and 38 procurators. Below these are 955 district judges sitting in 50 district courts, 74 district branch courts, 312 local and 1,400 branches of local courts.

What does it cost the English people to support the royal family in salaries, emoluments, upkeep of royal residences, pensions, etc., also of the kaiser and king of Italy?

The total for Great Britain is \$2,700,000 per annum; Germany, \$3,737,188; for Italy, \$2,322,000.

Was Bret Harte, the author of the "Heavenly Bodies," a native of the United States? When and where did he die?

Bret Harte was born at Albany, N. Y., in 1834. He lived in California for a number of years and while there achieved distinction as an author. He was appointed United States consul at Crefeld, Germany, in 1878, and from there was transferred to Glasgow, Scotland, where he was consul from 1880 to 1885. He died in England in 1902, never having returned to this country.

Are there any admirals in the United States navy?

There are four who hold that rank while serving at certain posts. The chief of naval operations has the rank and title of admiral for a period of four years, and the commanders in chief of the Atlantic, Pacific and Asiatic fleets each holds the rank of admiral while serving in that capacity. The flag officer designated as second in command of each of these fleets is entitled to hold the rank of vice admiral. The Atlantic fleet has a designated vice admiral.

Are national guardsmen protected under national military pension laws to the same extent as other national troops?

Under the new military law national guardsmen are to receive a pension in case of disability in time of war. The new military law on the question follows: "When any officer or enlisted man of the national guard drafted into the service of the United States in time of war is disabled by reason of wounds or disability received or incurred while in active service of the United States in time of war he shall be entitled to all the benefits of the pension laws existing at the time of his service, and in case such officer or enlisted man dies in the active service of the United States in times of war or on returning to his place of residence after having been mustered out of such service, or at any other time in consequence of wounds or disabilities received in such active service, his widow and children, if any, shall be entitled to all the benefits of such pension laws."

What were the principal occupations of the French people before the war and how many women workers were there in that country?

Agriculture was the chief occupation. Manufactures employed about 5,000,000 people, mining about 250,000, fisheries 135,000 and mercantile marine about 100,000. There were about 4,750,000 women workers of all kinds.

What is the heaviest locomotive that is built, and on what road is it in use?

The heaviest locomotive is the Triplex, built by the Baldwin Locomotive works for the Erie railroad. It weighs 853,600 pounds. It is a three compound machine, each engine having four driving wheels on a side, or a total of twelve on a side. It is used on heavy grades.

How many newspapers are there in Russia, and is the press free to publish anything it pleases, like ours?

There are said to be about 300 daily newspapers in European Russia. The Russian press is fairly free on all but political subjects. On these it has to exercise considerable circumspection in regard to what it prints, but not to the degree generally supposed, however.



Run up Old Glory!

Let it blaze

In red and white against the sky
And tell the story of the days
When hearts were stout and hopes were high
Forget the daily fights of greed,
Forget the struggles, the dismay
Of facing cruelty and need—
Run up Old Glory for the day.

Run up Old Glory!

Think of all

The old flag means to you and me,
Of how the blast of freedom's call
Shook out its folds from sea to sea;
Red with the blood that it has cost,
White with the souls of them that died—
To-day by laughing breezes tossed
It whispers of a nation's pride.

Run up Old Glory!

Fling it forth

And feel anew the country-call
That thrills East, West and South and North
And has its word for one and all.
Run up Old Glory—fling it far
Across the blue of heaven's dome,
And feel that every stripe and star
Is warder of your health and home.

(Copyright, 1917, by W. D. Nesbit.)

"MADE IN AMERICA"

Now Is the Time!

You know the European war has temporarily stopped the flow of foreign goods to this shore. Now is the time to learn to use "Made In America" articles. You don't have to buy anything made outside of the United States. This country produces what you want—or it soon will. When you buy at home you keep your money at home and not in the coffers of the European markets.

ECONOMIC POWER.

The real permanent benefits that come into the lives of the workers, those which are felt from day to day and not merely during times of special need, are brought about by the trade union movement. The trade union movement represents the organized economic power of the workers. Through the development of the organization and the exercise of this economic power the workers themselves establish higher standards of living and work. Although this economic power from the superficial standpoint seems indirect, it is in reality the most potent and the most direct of social insurance the workers can establish. It is the only agency that really guarantees to them protection against the results of the eventualities of life and give them a feeling of security.—Samuel Gompers.

Can you tell me what was the popular vote of Wilson, Roosevelt and Taft in the last presidential election?
Wilson, 6,293,019; Roosevelt, 4,119,607; Taft, 3,484,958.

Gompers Balks at Compulsion. Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, told the house committee on interstate commerce that if congress enacted compulsory arbitration legislation to prevent strikes he would be one who would violate it. "You can't and won't prevent strikes by making them illegal," declared Mr. Gompers. "You may prescribe direct penalties, but you won't prevent strikes. If you enact such a law you may count upon me as one of those who will violate it."

Clothing Workers Joyful. The forty-eight hour week won by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America in their strike against the clothing manufacturers, has gone into effect. Wage increases of between 10 and 15 per cent went into force at the same time, Jan. 22. About 60,000 workers are benefited.